

ACCOUNT OF THE BIRDS COLLECTED IN SUMBA BY ALFRED EVERETT AND HIS NATIVE HUNTERS.

By ERNST HARTERT.

OUR friend Everett visited Sumba in the autumn and early winter of 1896, and I should have published an account of his collection long ago, had it not been for the fact that he sent a trained native to Sumba again, with outfit and instructions to collect in the higher parts of the interior. This man first made a short but very successful trip, during which he got the first specimen of the new Hornbill, *Rhytidoceros everetti*, but a second trip was only partly a success, and finally he had to be dismissed.

As Doherty had collected chiefly near Waingapo, Mr. Everett tried to reach the forest-clad mountains of the western end of the island; but he was again baffled in his endeavour to do so, owing to the insecurity of the country, and therefore his collections were again almost confined to the surroundings of Waingapo. Just before Mr. Everett left the island a number of the Waingapo people were reported to have been murdered by the natives of Mount Mandekaka, so he did not send his men there, as he had intended to do. Mr. Everett is convinced that there is a great deal to be done yet in birds in Sumba by any one who can reach the real forest country; but it would require a large and strong party. It is interesting to hear that "Flores and Sumba are perfectly visible from each other, but only during the N.W. monsoon, while in the S.E. monsoon they are, as a rule, perfectly obscured by haze."

Although Doherty had taken the cream of the ornithology of Sumba, it will be seen that Everett's collections have done much to increase our knowledge of this most interesting island, **the ornithology of which is chiefly about the same as that of Sambawa, but with a mixture of Timorese and a good many specialised forms**, among which the *Eclectus*, the *Rhytidoceros everetti*, the beautiful *Ptilinopus dohertyi*, *Cacatua citrinocristata*, and quite a number of Passerine birds are most remarkable.

My first article on the Sumba birds sent by Doherty appeared in Vol. III. of this journal. I have added the page of that article wherever the species had been mentioned there. Where no such quotation appears after the name the bird had not been received from Doherty.

1. *Corvus macrorhynchus* Wagl.

Waingapo and other parts of Sumba.

2. *Geocichla dohertyi* Hart. (III. p. 555, Pl. XI.).

A fine series from Waingapo and other places. This species was found by Doherty on Lombok and Sambawa, by Everett in South Flores and Sumba.

3. *Pratincola caprata* (L.) (III. p. 580).

Waingapo.

4. *Cisticola cisticola* (Temm.) (III. p. 581).

September, Waingapo.

5. *Parus atriceps* Horst. (III. p. 581).

September, Waingapo.

6. *Dicaeum wilhelminae* Büttik. (III. p. 581).

Males and *females* from Waingapo and elsewhere. I have (*l.c.*) recorded a *female* from Sumba, which looked like the *female* of *D. mackloti*, and of which I could not suppose that it was the *female* of *D. wilhelminae*, as it had a red rump, while the *male* of *D. wilhelminae* has no red on the rump. It is, however, the *female* of *D. wilhelminae*, and differs from that of *D. mackloti* in having a shorter wing, more greyish sides of the breast, and more olive greenish flanks. It is peculiar that the *female* has a red rump like *D. mackloti*, while it is absent in the *male*.

7. *Piprisoma obsoletum* (S. Müll.) (III. p. 581, no. 8).

A series from Sumba has the wing generally about one or two mm. shorter than Timor specimens, but some are quite equal in size to Timor specimens. Otherwise there seem to be no perceptible differences between the specimens from the two islands.

8. *Anthreptes malaccensis chlorigaster* (Sharpe) (III. p. 580).

The distribution of *Anthreptes malaccensis* and allies in the Eastern Archipelago is one of the most difficult and interesting chapters to the ornithogeographer. When describing Doherty's collections from the Sunda Islands, I called (Vol. III. p. 545) the Bali bird *A. malaccensis*, separating from it that of Sambawa, which I called *A. malaccensis chlorigaster*, and that of Sumba, which I identified with *A. malaccensis celebensis*. This has been commented on by Messrs. Meyer & Wigglesworth in their great work on the Birds of Celebes, and it is now necessary to state that I have been perfectly right in differentiating between the Bali and Sambawa birds, the former being bright yellow below, and not, I think, separable from *A. malaccensis malaccensis*, while the Sambawa *males* differ at a glance by their much more greenish and duller underside. On the other hand, I have erred in uniting the Sumba bird with *A. mal. celebensis*. With much more and better material before me from Sumba, Sambawa, and Celebes, it is quite clear that the birds from Sumba, Sambawa, and elsewhere are exactly the same, and less dark greenish below than *A. mal. celebensis*. The question now arises, how to designate these birds? With a large material before me, I find that the birds of the Southern Philippines, including the Sulu birds, are true *A. mal. chlorigaster*, and cannot, in my opinion, be separated with satisfaction from those of Sambawa, Sumba Flores, Lombok, Pantar, and Alor. Between the Philippine area and that of the Lesser Sunda Islands, however, we have the large island of Borneo on the one hand, where we find typical *A. malaccensis*, which is spread over the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, the Natunas, Java, and Bali, and the Celebensian area on the other hand, which would very well connect the Philippines with the Lesser Sunda Islands, but we find on Celebes a still darker form, *A. mal. celebensis*! It may be added that Palawan birds (cf. Shelley's Monograph of Subbirds) are *A. malaccensis* and not

A. chlorogaster, although they seem a little less bright below than *A. malaccensis malaccensis*. On Lombok neither Wallace nor Doherty or Everett found an *Antheptes malaccensis*. This is most remarkable, and, if not due to misfortune, perhaps gives a clue to the differentiation of the darker race. In the above remarks the **males only** have been considered; the *females* must be studied carefully at another time. In investigating these forms Shelley and Meyer & Wilesworth should be read, while Gadow (*Cat. B. IX.*) is not exact and not critical enough.

9. *Cinnyris büttikoferi* Hart. (III. p. 581).

A good series from Waingapo.

10. *Stigmatops ocularis* (Gould) (III. p. 582).

Both sexes from Waingapo.

11. *Philemon timoriensis neglectus* (Büttik.) (III. p. 582).

A small series from Waingapo. "Iris lake-red, brown after death."

12. *Zosterops aureifrons* Wall. (III. p. 582).

A fine series from Waingapo and elsewhere.

13. *Zosterops citrinella* Bp. (III. p. 582).

Seven specimens from Waingapo. There seems to be a great amount of individual variation in this species, but there is no doubt that the Sumba bird is *Z. citrinella* Bp.

14. *Anthus rufulus medius* (Wall.) (III. pp. 558, 582).

Waingapo, common.

15. *Anthus gustavi* Swinh.

One skin, W. Sumba, December.

16. *Mirafra horsfieldi parva* (Swinh.).

Waingapo, September.

17. *Sporaeginthus flaviventris* (Wall.) (III. p. 582).

Among a good series shot in September and October there is not a single specimen in full plumage.

18. *Taeniopygia insularis* (Wall.) (III. p. 582).

Waingapo. "Iris of *male* bright red; bill coral-red; legs flesh-colour, with grey claws."

19. *Munia punctulata nisoria* (Temm.) (III. p. 582).

Waingapo.

20. *Munia molucca propinqua* (Sharpe) (III. p. 582).

Waingapo.

21. *Munia quinticolor* (Vieill.) (III. p. 583).

I do not think that *Munia wallacei* can be separated. In any case the Sumba birds are *M. quinticolor*.

22. *Calornis minor* (Bp.) (III. p. 583).

Waingapo.

23. *Artamus leucogaster* (Valenc.) (III. p. 583).

Waingapo.

24. *Chibia bimaënsis* Bp. (III. p. 583).

Waingapo.

25. *Oriolus broderipi* Bp. (III. p. 583).

Deep orange and paler specimens from Waingapo.

26. *Lanius superciliosus* Lath. (III. p. 583).

Waingapo, one skin, shot in December.

27. *Pachycephala fulviventris* Hart. (III. p. 584).

A fine series from Waingapo. Young *males* are like adult *females*. Young *females* (and ? young *males* in first plumage) have broad rufous edges to the remiges.

28. *Graucalus sumbensis* A. B. Meyer (III. p. 584).

A beautiful series from Waingapo. The black-throated *male* differs widely from *Graucalus floris* in its larger size, paler upper surface, paler breast, and white abdomen. Wing of *males* about 185 mm., of *females* about 182 mm. Young *males* are like *females*, but both *males* and *females* have faint ashy bars across the breast when immature.

29. *Edoliosoma dohertyi* Hart. (III. p. 584, IV. p. 523).

The *male* only was found by Doherty in Sumba, but Everett sent both sexes from Flores and Sumba.

30. *Lalage timoriensis* (S. Müll.) (III. p. 584).

Not very rare at Waingapo. Iris dark brown.

31. *Alseonax latirostris* (Gray).

Waingapo, September.

32. *Culicicapa ceylonensis sejuncta* Hart.

(See Nov. Zool. III. p. 584, no. 31, *sub nomine C. ceylonensis*, IV. p. 526.)

Two *males* from Waingapo. "Iris brown; bill dark brown, basal half of mandible paler: legs sienna-brown."

33. *Rhipidura semicollaris* Müll. & Schleg.

(Vol. III. p. 585, *sub nomine Rh. celebensis sumbaensis*.)

I find now that the width of the black collar differs a little individually, and that the wider black collar I thought was present in the Sumba specimens is due to preparation. The wings of the Sumba skins collected by Everett measure: ♂♂ 70--75, ♀♀ 68--70 mm. I cannot, therefore, see any reason to keep the Sumba skins separate from *Rh. semicollaris*.

34. *Terpsiphone floris sumbaensis* A. B. Meyer (III. p. 585, IV. p. 526).

As I have said before, *T. floris floris* and *T. floris sumbaensis* are best separated subspecifically only. It is, on the other hand, possible to distinguish the *males* in nearly all cases. The wing of *T. floris* from Flores, Sambawa, and Alor measures (adult *males* only measured) 95--100 mm., that of Sumba birds (adult *males* only) 101--104 mm. The feathers of the back in *T. floris floris* have all black shafts in all ages, the secondaries black lines along the shafts, while these characters are only to be found in younger individuals of *T. floris sumbaensis*, the perfectly adult *males* having no black shafts on the feathers of the back, and only the shaft itself of the secondaries narrowly black along the middle. The remiges have wider black tips in *T. floris floris*. In both forms the perfectly adult *males* have the tips of the shafts of the rectrices white, and in both forms the blackish edges of the rectrices disappear with age. Everett collected a fine series near Waingapo.

35. *Myiagra rufigula* Wall. (III. p. 585).

Both sexes from Waingapo.

36. *Hirundo javanica* Sparrm.

Two *males*, Waingapo, September.

37. *Hirundo striolata* (Temm. & Schleg.).

♂ ad. Waingapo, September.

38. *Pitta maria* Hart. (III. p. 585).

The Sumba Pitta has been described from a single skin given to Mr. Doherty by Miss Maria de Korte, who had received it alive from the interior of Sumba. The next record I was able to give was the occurrence of a *male* in South Flores. When recording this (Nov. Zool. IV. p. 526) I could not help feeling somewhat uncertain about this locality, and I should not have mentioned it at all if I had not known Mr. Everett's care and trustworthiness. Mr. Everett, after reading my note, told me himself that the specimen was brought in by his men in Flores, and that he knew it to be *P. maria* before it had been skinned. He did not think it was of regular occurrence in Flores, but considering the small distance from Sumba

to Flores it was not very wonderful for a bird to straggle occasionally across from one island to the other. This talk with Mr. Everett was, alas, the last I had with this great field-naturalist.

P. maria must be frequent near Waingapo, for Everett and his men obtained a good series there from September to December. The *female* does not differ from the *male*. There is sometimes a narrow white spot on the shaft of the fourth, or on the fifth, or on both these primaries. Wing 112—116 mm.

39. *Collocalia fuciphaga* Thunb.

♂, October, Waingapo. Wing 112 mm.

40. *Caprimulgus affinis* Horsf.

♀ ad. with an unfledged chick, caught on December 19th. It is a rather dark and rather greyish looking specimen, characters probably due to the worn state of plumage.

41. *Merops ornatus* Lath. (III. p. 586).

Common at Waingapo.

42. *Alcedo ispida floresiana* (Sharpe) (III. p. 586).

Both sexes from Waingapo. The *male* has the bill entirely black; the *female* the maxilla black, the mandible red.

43. *Ceyx innominata* Salvad.

These two specimens, both marked ♀, have a bright dark blue spot behind the ear-coverts! What does this mean? I find it also in one skin from Sambawa and one from the mountains of Java, both of which I believe to belong to *C. innominata*, although the latter one has a remarkably short beak. On the other hand I cannot find that blue spot in a fine series from Bali, Lombok, Flores, Sambawa, Bunguran, and Sumatra. I have already (Vol. III. p. 571) shown that there are no differences between *C. innominata* and *C. erythro*, but now, through the presence of this blue spot in *C. innominata*, Sharpe's key on p. 173 of *Cat. B. XVII.* for the first group gets unreliable. I cannot also see the blue spot in all the *dillwynni*, but find it sometimes absent.

44. *Halcyon chloris* (Bodd.) (III. p. 586).

♂ ♀, Waingapo.

45. *Halcyon australasiae* (Vicill.) (III. p. 586).

♂ ♀, Waingapo.

46. *Eurystomus orientalis australis* (Sw.) (III. p. 586).

Mr. Everett sent two specimens.

47. *Cacomantis threnodes* Cab. (III. p. 586).

Waingapo. The specimens differ in the shade of the rufous underside, but they are all *threnodes*.

48. *Eudynamis orientalis* (L.).

Both sexes from Western Sumba. See *antea*, p. 461.

49. *Cuculus intermedius* Vahl.

Western Sumba, two specimens.

50. *Centropus javanicus* (Dumont) (III. p. 586).

Waingapo.

51. *Rhytidoceros everetti* Rothsch.

This fine hornbill is probably the most interesting of Mr. Everett's discoveries in the Eastern Archipelago in a zoogeographical sense. It is nearest to *Rh. narcondami* Hume from the peak of Narcondam, in the Bay of Bengal, and about of the same dimensions, but the tail is wholly black in both sexes. The type-specimen, a *male*, was shot by one of Everett's natives, a Sumbanese, at Manjeli. Mr. Rothschild sent it to the annual meeting of the German Ornithological Society, in Dresden, in May, 1897, and it is diagnosed by him in the *Journal für Ornithologie*, 1897, p. 513. Three more specimens were afterwards shot by the same native during the dry season in Sumba. Two were *males*, and agreed with the type; one was a *female*, and its plumage is entirely black everywhere. The beak is (in the skins) white, with nearly the basal half of both maxilla and mandible dull red. The *male* has the rather elongated feathers of the crown and neck above, as well as the sides of the head, chestnut, the neck below glossy brownish yellow, pale chestnut towards the breast. The rest of the plumage is black, with a metallic green gloss, which is stronger above. Two of the *males* have faint white tips to some of the rectrices. This suggests a white tail in the young bird. The *male* measures: bill, from base to tip in a straight line, 135 mm.; wing 345; tail 270—280. The *female*: bill, measured in the same way, 122 mm.; wing 325; tail, 265.

52. *Trichoglossus haematodus fortis* Hart. (III. p. 586, V. p. 120).

Antea, p. 120, I have discussed this form, and separated it on account of its slightly larger beak. It is very common on the island of Sumba.

53. *Cacatua citrinocristata* (Fras.) (III. p. 587).

Two *males* from Waingapo. "Iris dark brown; orbital skin bluish white; bill and feet black."

54. *Geoffroyus floresianus tjindanae* A. B. Meyer (III. p. 587).

This bird is common enough on the island of Sumba. It is impossible, I think, to separate *G. floresianus*, *sumbavensis*, and *tjindanae* specifically. They are not easy to distinguish at all, and are certainly nothing more than subspecies of each other. Single specimens can sometimes not be determined without knowledge of their origin. The colour of the crown varies with the age of the plumage. The three forms may be distinguished as follows:—

G. floresianus floresianus: ♂ with wing 157—160 mm. Generally smallest of the three. Under wing-coverts a shade darker blue than in the two others, the green a shade darker and less yellowish. (Hab.: Flores.)

G. floresianus sumbarensis: ♂ with wing 159—168 (generally about 163—165) mm. Generally intermediate in size between the two others. Under wing-coverts a shade lighter, the green lighter and slightly more yellowish. (Hab.: Lombok and Sambawa.)

G. floresianus tjindanae: ♂ with wing 167—174 mm. Generally largest of the three. In colour like *G. floresianus sambacensis*, although the red of the face may generally be deeper.

As said before, in all these forms the young *male* passes from the green-headed first stage, through a brown-headed stage, to the red-headed final plumage, both times by **moult**.

55. *Eclectus cornelia* Bp. (III. p. 587).

The home of this beautiful parrot was unknown until Doherty sent a *male* and a *female* from Sumba. Both those, however, were bought from natives of the interior, and both had their wings cut. Mr. Everett has now sent a magnificent series of both sexes, mostly collected by his native hunters in the interior and in the western part of Sumba, where it is evidently a common bird. The beak is black in the *female*, while the *male* has the maxilla red, the mandible black. The birds were in very good plumage in December. The wing of the *male* is about 265—270 mm. long, that of the *female* 255 to 260.

56. *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus sumbensis* A. B. Meyer (III. p. 588).

Six skins from Waingapo. In September a few were in very decent plumage, while others were enormously abraded and besmeared with the juice of some fruit, as parrots often are. The six specimens are all *males* except one. This *female* is very dirty; its tail cannot be measured; its wing is about 245 mm. long; its beak smaller than in the *male*, its crown more bluish. The *males* have the wings about 252—264 mm. "The iris of these birds has a broad white outer ring, and a narrow inner ring which varies from greenish yellow to olive green; eyelids black; bill red; feet dirty olive-green, claws dusky blackish."

57. *Ninox rudolfi* A. B. Meyer (III. p. 588).

Mr. Everett collected a fine series of this beautiful owl near Waingapo, and others were brought to him by his native collector from the western part of the island. They all agree more or less with Dr. Meyer's type and the two *females* sent by Mr. Doherty, but they are much deeper brown and brighter in fresh plumage, while they are much paler in worn plumage. The *males* seem to have the wing 5—8 mm. longer, not shorter, than the *female*, supposing that the native sexing can be trusted. "The irides are dark brown; bill black, culmen, cere, and basal half of mandible lead-grey; feet light ochreous yellow, claws dark brown-grey."

58. *Strix flammea sumbaënsis* Hart.

(Cf. Nov. Zool. III. p. 588, IV. p. 270, V. p. 121.)

Everett procured the Sumba barn-owl near Waingapo, while other specimens were brought to him from Western Sumba.

59. *Baza subcristata* Gould.

Obtained near Waingapo in September, and in W. Sumba in December. The slate-coloured upperside of the freshly moulted bird fades into an ashy brown colour when the plumage is worn. (Cf. *antec*, p. 47.) "Iris golden yellow: cere and bill light leaden grey, with distal half of maxilla black; feet bluish white, with blackish claws."

60. *Astur torquatus sumbaënsis* (A. B. Meyer) (III. p. 589).

Old and young from Waingapo. I have disensed this form at length *antec*, p. 122.

61. *Tinnunculus moluccensis occidentalis* M. & Wg. (III. p. 589).

Common near Waingapo in September, when they were in much-worn plumage. "Coloration of iris, etc., as described in *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.*, except that the bill is grey rather than blue."

62. *Circus assimilis* Jard. & Selby.

A beautiful adult *female* has been obtained during the N.W. monsoon in Western Sumba. Its ear-coverts are almost uniform deep chestnut.

63. *Milvus korschun affinis* (Gould).

Fine adult specimens from Waingapo.

64. *Haliastur indus* (Bodd.).

Two young birds from Waingapo. Probably *H. i. intermedius*, but I do not know how to distinguish such young birds.

65. *Pandion haliaëtus* (L.).

One ♂ ad. in moult, September, Waingapo. It may belong to the south-eastern subspecies *P. h. leucocephalus*.

66. *Osmotreron teysmanni* Schleg. (III. p. 589).

Common near Waingapo. The adult *male* differs widely from *O. psittacca* of Timor in having a yellow forehead and a broad chestnut rufous area across the upperside, formed by the dark chestnut rufous innermost secondaries and their coverts, scapulars, and some of the interscapular feathers. "Iris with an inner ring blue, outer ring dark grey; eyelids lead-grey, margins greenish yellow; bill horn-white, slightly tinged with green; feet dull carmine, claws greyish brown." *Males*: wing 165—170 mm.

67. *Ptilinopus dohertyi* Rothsch. (III. p. 589).

Of this most beautiful pigeon, which has been figured on Plate XII. of Vol. III. of this journal, Mr. Everett procured a young *female* in first plumage near Waingapo

in September. The head and neck are greyish white with greenish edges to the feathers, breast and abdomen dull green with yellow borders, back greenish, remiges green with yellow edges, tail as in the adult bird with yellowish green tips. The native Mr. Everett sent to Sumba obtained two fine old birds, a *female* and a *male*, during the dry season, both in perfect plumage. **The female is exactly like the male**, only much smaller; the wing of the *male* measuring 186, that of the *female* 172 mm.

68. *Ptilinopus melanocephalus* (Forst.) (III. p. 589).

Waingapo. ♂ ad. "Iris, outer ring yellow, inner ring yellowish green; eyelids and bill yellowish green; feet dull carmine."

69. *Carpophaga aenea* (L.) (III. p. 589).

Waingapo. ♂ ad. "Iris crimson-lake; bill dark grey, apical third of maxilla nearly white, base of culmen to point of nostrils dull purplish carmine."

70. *Geopelia maugeus* (Temm.) (III. p. 590).

Waingapo. Rather worn in September.

71. *Chalcophaps indica* (L.) (III. p. 590).

Common everywhere. Specimens obtained during the N.W. monsoon were in beautiful plumage.

72. *Turtur tigrinus* (Temm.) (III. p. 589).

This widespread common bird, with its most absurd specific name, was found common enough in Sumba Island.

73. *Gallinula frontata* Wall.

One immature *female* shot in December, near Waingapo. In dimensions perfectly similar to specimens of *G. frontata* from Celebes. Below rather duller and paler, the feathers of the abdomen with white edges. These latter characters are evidently due to nonage. The occurrence in Sumba is remarkable. The species is known to be common in Celebes and the Moluccas. One specimen is in the British Museum said to have come from Port Moresby (Goldie), and Blasius states that it breeds in S.E. Borneo. The specimens from there require further attention.

74. *Amaurornis phoenicura* (Forst.).

Several skins, all immature. It is said by Legge & Sharpe that the Timorese *leucomelaina* is not separable from typical *A. phoenicura*, but it seems peculiar to me that nearly all specimens from the Lesser Sunda Islands have no white on the forehead, or only an indication of it.

75. *Bubulcus coromandus* (Bodd.).

In beautiful nuptial plumage in January.

76. *Nettion gibberifrons* S. Müll. (III. p. 590).

♀ ad. Waingapo, much-worn plumage in December. "Iris orange-brown; bill lead-blue, distal portion of mandible yellowish flesh-colour; feet lead-grey."

77. *Anas superciliosa* Gm.

December, W. Sumba.

78. *Turnix everetti* sp. nov.

One *female*, sexed by Everett himself. Waingapo, December 1896. "Iris white; bill pale lead-grey, culmen darker; legs flesh-colour." This specimen has the nearest ally in *T. pyrrhothorax* from Australia, but is much darker above and brighter below, and considerably smaller. The chest is bright rufous, breast and abdomen white, feathers on the sides of the breast buff or pale rufous, with broad black cross-markings and pale buff edges, flanks light rusty rufous. Feathers of the upperside black, with whitish buff edges and one or two rufous cross-lines before the tip. Bill as high and strong as in *T. pyrrhothorax*. Wing 70 mm. (85—86 in *females* of *T. pyrrhothorax*, 74 in *males* of the latter); tarsus 16; exposed culmen 11 mm.

79. *Synoicus raalteni pallidior* Hart.

In Vol. IV. p. 271 I described this pale form from Savu, and I now find that Sumba specimens are perfectly like those from Savu.

80. *Gallus varius* Shaw & Nodd.

Common near Waingapo. "Iris yellow. Bare face and throat pinkish white, darker pink on lower throat, passing into greenish blue at lowest end of gular sac, with a band of pure orange next the feather on the side of the neck. Comb dull pink, with greenish blue base."

81. *Megapodius duperreyi* Less. & Garn.

Not rare on Sumba Island.
